

Serial No.: 10/672,108

REMARKS

I. Status Summary

Claims 1-56 were filed with the subject application and have been examined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (hereinafter "the Patent Office"). Of these, claims 1-31 were cancelled in a preliminary amendment and claims 42-56 were cancelled as being drawn to unelected subject matter. Claim 57 was added with Amendment A, filed March 20, 2006. Claims 32-41 and 57 presently stand rejected.

The Patent Office has withdrawn claim 57 from consideration as allegedly being patentably distinct from SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 6, the subject of currently pending claims 32-41.

The Patent Office has objected to Amendment A filed March 20, 2006 as allegedly introducing new matter into the disclosure. Particularly, the Examiner contends that SEQ ID NO: 30 recited in claim 57 is not supported by the specification as filed.

Claims 32 and 39-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,977,247 to Fahnestock et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Fahnestock et al.").

Claims 33-38 have been objected to as improperly depending from rejected claim 32.

Reconsideration of the subject application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

II. Response to the Patent Office Withdrawal of Claim 57

The Patent Office has withdrawn claim 57 from consideration as allegedly being patentably distinct from SEQ ID NOs: 5 and 6, the subject of currently pending claims 32-41. Particularly, the Patent Office asserts that the sequences contained in claim 57 are unrelated and patentably distinct such that an unduly burdensome search would